

Message Text

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TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE IN PARIS

1- AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE, NOW IN THIRD WEEK OPEN-AIR
PERFORMANCES COURTYARD PARIS LOUVRE MUSEUM, HAS BEEN
OUTSTANDING POPULAR AND CRITICAL SUCCESS.

2- FIRST WEEK UNFORTUNATELY MARKED BY UNSEASONABLY COLD
RAINY WEATHER WHICH FORCED CANCELLATION JULY 25 OPENING
AND TWO ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES, BUT THIS ONLY WON DANCERS
PRAISE FOR PHYSICAL COURAGE ON EVENINGS THEY DID PERFORM AND
IN NO WAY DIMINISHED FULL OR NEARLY FULL-HOUSE AUDIENCES
FORTIFIED WITH COATS, BLANKETS, AND UMBRELLEAS.

3- PRESS REVIEWS, APPEARING ALMOST DAILY, HAVE CONCENTRATED
PRAISE ON COMPANY'S DISCIPLINE AND PRECISION
("DISCIPLINE UNKNOWN HERE," WROTE NEWSPAPER L' AUREORE);
THE VIRTUOSITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND EVIDENT DEDICATION OF DANCERS;
AND VARIETY OF TROUPE'S REPERTOIRE. (L' AURORE CALLED ABT'S
POSSIBILITIES "UNLIMITED, ... FROM GRAND CLASSICAL RUSSIAN
TRADITION TO AUDACIOUS AMERICAN AVANT-GARDE.") PRESS ALSO
STRUCK BY PROFUSION OF COMPANY'S FIRST-LINE STARS (BARYSHNIKOV,
MAKAROVA, GREGORY, KIRKLAND, BUJONES, ETC.) AND BY
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SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION SOVIET STARS WITH AMERICAN COMPANY
PERFORMING MODERN AMERICAN DANCE. NEWSPAPER LE MONDE WROTE
THAT PERFORMANCES "PROVED THAT TWO GREAT CLASSICAL DANCERS
(MAKAROVA, BARYSHNIKOV) WITH POLYMORPHOUS SLAVIC TEMPERAMENT,
CAN ASSIMILATE ANYTHING, INCLUDING NEW, ABSOLUTELY ENTRANCING
AMERICAN DANCE LANGUAGE WHICH DOMINATES TODAY'S DANCE WORLD
AND HAS RELEGATED TO THE SHELF NEO-CLASSICAL AND ESOTERIC FORMS

OF OLD EUROPE." IN SAME VEIN, QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS NOTED
"SPONTANEITY AND NATURAL YOUTHFULNESS OF THE YOUNG AMERICANS."
INTEREST IN BARYSHNIKOV'S APPEARANCE, ESPECIALLY IN TWYLA
THARP'S "PUSH COMES TO SHOVE," IS IMMENSE. FRANCE SOIR CALLED
BARYSHNIKOV'S VIRTUOSITY "STUPEFYING."

4- DESPITE PERFORMANCE CANCELLATION, PARIS AGENT GAVE
OPENING-NIGHT DINNER FOR ABT SOLOISTS, AMBASSADOR, AND
HIS FAMILY AT MAXIM'S RESTAURANT. PARIS MAYOR JACQUES CHIRAC
GAVE CITY HASLL ERECEPTION JULY 27. AMBASSADOR HELD
RECEPTION JULY 28 FOR ENTIRE COMPANY AND FRENCH CULTURAL
FIGURES. EMBASSY INTEREST AND SUPPORT (AMBASSADOR ATTENDED
ALL PUBLIC FUNCTIONS AND SEVERAL PERFORMANCES) HAVE BEEN
APPRECIATED BY COMPANY AND MAY HAVE HELPED TROUPE OVER
DISAPPOINTING FIRST WEEK OF CANCELLATION.

5- OUR ONLY REGRET IS THAT ABT CAME WHEN IT DID. WE HOPE THAT
A FUTURE VISIT WILL NOT COINCIDE WITH THE SUMMER EXODUS
FROM PARIS. IN SUS, ABT HAS JUSTIFIED ADVANCE NOTICES
AS "ONE OF WORLD'S MOST ADMIRABLE BALLET TROUPES," GIVEN
FURTHER PROOF OF VIBRANCY OF AMERICAN DANCE, AND HELPED REVIVE
PARIS CULTURAL SCENE AT NORMALLY DORMANT SEASON.
HARTMAN

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COURTYARD PARIS LOUVRE MUSEUM, HAS BE
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